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Mr. Gilpatrick



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1962 SEP 1 11 04

CM-933-62  
31 AUG 1962

OFF SECY OF DEFENSE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Public Affairs Guidance on Cubans Volunteering  
for Military Service

1. Reference is made to memoranda:

a. By the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), dated 21 August 1962, subject as above, which requested suggested answers to six questions regarding the voluntary induction of Cuban refugees into the United States Armed Forces.

b. By the Joint Chiefs of Staff JCSM-426-62, dated 5 June 1962, subject: "Cubans in the United States Armed Forces."

2. The suggested answers to the six questions of reference a are at the Enclosure. The answers provided are in consonance with the plan for public information contained in reference b.

*L. L. Lennitzer*  
L. L. LENNITZER  
Chairman  
Joint Chiefs of Staff

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ENCLOSURE TO CM-933-62

QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTED ANSWERS

1. Question: How many Cuban Nationals have come into the Armed Forces, by Service, as of the latest available date?

Answer: As of 23 August 1962, the following number of Cuban Nationals were serving in the Armed Forces:

|              |   |    |
|--------------|---|----|
| Army         | - | 17 |
| Navy         | - | 9  |
| Air Force    | - | 42 |
| Marine Corps | - | 22 |

2. Question: Have any of these Cuban Nationals been assigned to special forces units?

Answer: To date, no Cuban Nationals have been assigned to special forces units; however, under the current program, it is envisioned that individuals who are determined to be qualified may be given special forces type training upon completion of basic and advanced training.

3. Question: Will Cuban Nationals be sent overseas with special forces units?

Answer: There are no provisions in the current program which would restrict the assignment of Cubans to a particular area or which would preclude their assignment to oversea stations.

4. Question: Has any promise been made to these volunteers that they might spearhead any sort of invasion force?

Answer: No promises of this nature have been made. The orientation which is given potential inductees specifically states:

"As you can understand from my discussion, the goal of our program is not to train a Cuban Military force, but to provide you opportunities which are traditional in the United States of America. These opportunities include service to the country which is offering you sanctuary and the development of your own individual skills and abilities."

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5. Question: How long will basic and advanced training for these volunteers take?

Answer: The length of time which a volunteer spends in basic and advanced training varies with each Service and is dependent upon the skill for which he is being trained, as follows:

Army - Ten weeks basic individual training and ten weeks Infantry advanced individual training.

Navy - Nine weeks recruit training. The remainder to be individually determined based upon consideration of age, physical condition, previous skills, mental qualifications, and motivation.

Air Force - From two to six months depending upon skill involved.

Marine Corps - Twelve weeks basic training and four weeks advanced training.

6. Question: Why aren't the Air Force and Marine Corps taking Cuban Nationals under this new plan?

Answer: The current program is designed to increase motivation of Cuban refugees for service in the Armed Forces. In the past, one of the primary difficulties has been in holding these individuals' interest after basic training had been completed. In this connection, it appears that the type training afforded by the Army Special Forces type units and Navy SEAL type units could best accomplish this objective. The Air Force and Marine Corps will continue to accept those Cuban volunteers who particularly desire enlistment in either Service and who can meet appropriate established enlistment criteria.

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